



National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

Ketchikan Gateway Borough, AK

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

OVERVIEW

EPA has selected Ketchikan Gateway Borough as a Brownfields Pilot. Ketchikan is a community of about 15,000 residents located on Revillagigedo Island in the southernmost portion of Alaska's "panhandle." The site selected for the pilot is the Ward Cove Pulp Mill. The mill was established in 1954 as part of the U.S. Forest Service's decision to develop a forest products industry in southeast Alaska. Previously, the Ketchikan economy was almost entirely dependent on fisheries, tourism, and mining—industries that tend to be highly seasonal and cyclical. At one time, the mill employed up to seven percent of Ketchikan's workforce and offered stable, year-round employment. The current corporate owner of the mill permanently closed it in March 1997.

Ketchikan hopes that this brownfields pilot will be a model for brownfields prevention and remediation. By planning for immediate reuse of the site, the community hopes to avoid the deterioration of buildings, facilities, and equipment. The community is also trying to avoid costs associated with rebuilding infrastructure. Ketchikan also hopes to preserve the scenic beauty and natural resources of the area by directing industrial development to previously developed sites.

PILOT SNAPSHOT

Date of Award:
April 1997

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The Ward Cove Paper Mill site will be the focus of the brownfields pilot.



Ketchikan, Alaska

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

OBJECTIVES

Ketchikan's goals for the pilot are: 1) to help maintain a sustainable industrial employment base; 2) to avoid an economy dependent on cyclical and seasonal employment and the problems associated with a transient labor force; and 3) to retain the Ward Cove Pulp Mill workforce in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough community. The brownfield pilot for the Ward Cove Paper Mill site will serve as a model for community planning and redevelopment.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Performing a site survey to inventory the parts of the site can be reused immediately and the parts that should be excluded from immediate reuse consideration;
- Conducting site assessment activities;
- Performing an economic analysis of the property to identify potential industries that may appropriately reuse the site; and
- Planning for site cleanup.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.